An etymology of the names of Victorian native freshwater fish

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Abstract

The etymologies of the scientific names of native freshwater fish known from Victoria are outlined, with supporting evidence where possible from the original authors of the names. (*The Victorian Naturalist* 127 (3) 2010, 79-87)

Introduction

> Well, 'slithy' means 'lithe' and 'slimy' ... You see it's like a portmanteau—there are two meanings packed up in one word. (Lewis Carroll 1871: Chapter 6)

In taxonomy most of the names of genera and species are constructed in the portmanteau style described by Humpty Dumpty, with stems mainly from Greek but also from Latin, personal names, and sometimes other languages. These names often combine long-forgotten relationships between genera and species, bound by the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* and classical Greek and Latin but subject also to the whims of taxonomists. But the passage of time and the difficulty in finding original descriptions has made the meanings of many names obscure, and presumed etymologies often turn out to be false.

This paper sets out as much as could be established about the true etymology of the currently accepted scientific names of native freshwater fish known from Victoria. 'Freshwater fish' here means species that may be found in fresh or brackish inland waters, although some of these species are largely marine.

Where possible the original publication has been sourced to determine the author's intention. If that has not been possible, the author's explanation in a later work or an explanation by another ichthyologist from the same period has been used. If no explanation is available in the literature, the most likely etymology is given. Punctuation, italics, capitalisation, etc. in quotations are as in the originals.

The word stems are given in anglicised Greek for simplicity, and an aspirated *h* is included in the spelling of the stem where necessary, as in *hypsos*. Where the stem is Latin derived from a Greek word, the Greek stem rather than the Latin is given, and so stems without a lingual attribution can be assumed to be Greek.

Greek stems are based on Morwood and Taylor (2002), supplemented where necessary by Bagster (1870). Latin stems are based on Lewis (1891) and Marchant and Charles (1952). Stearn (1992), although written specifically for botany, also proved to be very useful.

Some cynicism is appropriate for names of fish derived from colours because few authors saw fresh specimens, and many descriptions were based on a single specimen pickled in alcohol. A very singular exception among authors was François Laporte, Compte de Castelnau (1810–1880), who made a habit of attending fish markets to obtain a large range of fresh fish on which to base his descriptions. His description of the diversity and abundance of fish available at the Melbourne Fish Market over a century ago (Castelnau 1872) makes sobering reading for anyone concerned about the decline of native freshwater and marine fishes in south-eastern Australia.

Common names for species given in this paper follow the Australian Fish Names Standard AS SSA 5300-2007, developed by the Australian Fish Names Committee (SSA 2009). Although this standard was developed to resolve problems with the naming of commercial species and includes some names that differ from those in use elsewhere, it does at least provide a stable basis for common names.

Etymologies

Acanthopagrus (Peters, 1855) — *acanthos* (thorny, spiny) + genus *Pagrus* (sea-perches), the latter presumably derived from Latin *pagur*, a common sea fish of unknown identity. Peters (1855: 242) first coined the name for a subgenus of *Chrysophrys* Quoy and Gaimard, 1824.

— ***australis*** (Günther, 1859) (Yellowfin Bream): from the distribution of the species: 'Australian Seas, entering rivers' (Günther 1859: 494).

— ***butcheri*** Munro, 1949 (Black Bream): 'It is named in honour of *A.D. Butcher*, who has made an extensive study of its economic biology in the Gippsland Lakes … ' (Munro 1949: 194).

Afurcagobius Gill, 1993 — Latin *a* (away from, after) + *furca* (fork) + genus *Gobius*, alluding to the joined pelvic fins and the separation of the genus from *Gobius* (Gill 1993: 178).

— ***tamarensis*** (Johnston, 1883) (Tamar Goby): after the collection locality of the type specimen, the Tamar River in Tasmania.

Aldrichetta Whitley, 1945 — 'I name the Australian genus in honour of Mr. Fred. Aldrich, who served for many years as a Fisheries Inspector in New South Wales and became Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game in Perth, Western Australia from 1911 to 1937, an able and enthusiastic fisheries investigator.' (Whitley 1945: 19).

— ***forsteri*** (Valenciennes, 1836) (Yelloweye Mullett): after Johann Reinhold Forster (1729–1798), German naturalist who accompanied James Cook on his second Pacific voyage in the *Resolution* (1772–1775). 'Forster a observé un muge qui remote en foule au mois d'Avril … ' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1836: 141).

Ambassis Cuvier, 1828 — from the name *ambasse* given by Philibert Commerson (1727–1773) to a fish from Île de Bourbon; meant, according to Cuvier, in the sense of *deux sous*, alluding to the double ridge on the inferior edge of the preoperculum (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1828: 175). It is sometimes said that the name is from Greek *ambasis* = *anabasis* (climbing), which is wrong both etymologically and biologically (although correct for the genus *Anabasis*).

— ***agassizii*** Steindachner, 1867 (Agassiz's Glassfish): after Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807–1873), French–American anatomist, philosopher and educator, who was influenced by Cuvier and published widely on fossil and living fish. He is also well known for his work on glaciation and the philosophy of science, and for his influence on major literary figures such as Thoreau and Emerson.

— ***jacksoniensis*** (Macleay, 1881) (Port Jackson Glassfish): after Port Jackson, where the type specimen was collected (Macleay 1881a: 340).

Ammotretis Gunther, 1862 — *ammos* (sand) + *tretis* (boring through, burrowing), presumably alluding to the fish's habit of burying itself in the sand.

— ***rostratus*** Günther, 1862 (Longsnout Flounder): Latin *rostratus* (with a beak): 'The upper part of the snout is produced into a flap overhanging the lower jaw.' (Günther 1862: 458).

Anguilla Schrank, 1798 — Latin *anguilla* (eel), the specific epithet of the type species, *Muraena anguilla* L.

— ***australis*** Richardson, 1841 (Southern Shortfin Eel): Latin *auster* (the south), reflecting its southern hemisphere distribution. Also called Short-finned Eel.

— ***reinhardtii*** Steindachner, 1867 (Longfin Eel): after Danish zoologist Johan Christopher Hagemann Reinhardt (1776–1845). Reinhardt was director of the Royal Museum of Natural History in Copenhagen and Professor of Zoology at the University of Copenhagen (Hansen 1902: 1051).

Arenigobius Whitley, 1930 — *arena* (a sandy place) + genus *Gobius*, presumably alluding to the habitat and the position in family Gobiidae. Whitley (1930: 122) unusually gave no hint of the etymology.

— ***bifrenatus*** (Kner, 1865) (Bridled Goby): Latin *bis* (twice) + *frenatus* (bridled), alluding to the distinct pair of dark bars radiating backwards from each eye, which Kner thought distinguished the species from *A. frenatus* (Kner 1865: 177).

— ***frenatus*** (Gunther, 1861) (Halfbridled Goby): Latin *frenatus* (bridled), alluding to the dark bar (or two bars) behind each eye, reminiscent of the bridle of a horse: ' … a blackish band edged with lighter from the maxillary to the lower part of the pectoral … ' (Günther 1861a: 40).

Atherinosoma Castelnau, 1872 — genus *Atherina* + *soma* (body), alluding to the similarity in form to that genus: 'I propose here a new genus, *Atherinosoma*, which, if it does really belong to the family, would, on account of its dentition, oblige me to modify its characters … [it has the] General form of *Atherina* … ' (Castelnau 1872: 136).

— ***microstoma*** Günther, 1861 (Smallmouth Hardyhead): *mikros* (small) + *stoma* (opening), referring the size of the mouth: ' … the mouth is rather small, the maxillary not extending to the anterior margin of the eye … ' (Günther 1861a: 401).

Bidyanus Whitley, 1943 —From the specific epithet of the type species, *Acerina* [*Cernua*] *bidyana* Mitchell, derived from the Aboriginal name for the fish: '*Cernua bidyana mihi*, or Bidyan ruffe … *Bidyan* is the aboriginal name.' (Mitchell 1838: 95).

— ***bidyanus*** (Mitchell, 1838) (Silver Perch): as for the genus.

Craterocephalus McCulloch, 1912 — *krater* (bowl) + *kephale* (head), alluding to the distinct concavity of the head when viewed from the side, particularly in the female.

— ***eyresii*** Steindachner, 1883 (Lake Eyre Hardyhead): from Lake Eyre ('Eyre's Lake'), where the type specimen was collected during the Lake Eyre Expedition of 1874–1875.

— ***fluviatilis*** McCulloch, 1912 (Murray Hardyhead): Latin *fluviatilis* (relating to rivers), simply a reference to the river habitat.

— ***stercusmuscarum*** (Günther, 1867) (Fly-specked Hardyhead): Latin *stercus* (dung) + *muscarum* (of a fly), referring to the appearance of the scales, as if marked with fly specks: 'Each scale with a black dot at the base.' (Günther 1867b: 64).

Favonigobius Whitley, 1930 — Latin *favonius* (west wind) + genus *Gobius*, an allusion to the collection locality of the type species (*F. lateralis*), King George Sound, Western Australia (Macleay 1881b: 602; Whitley 1930: 122).

— ***lateralis*** (Macleay, 1881) (Southern Longfin Goby): Latin *lateralis* (on the side), a reference to the fact that ' … along the middle of each side of the body there are five large, reddish-brown spots … ' (Macleay 1881b: 602).

Gadopsis Richardson, 1848 — genus *Gadus* (cods) + *opsis* (appearance), from the cod-like form: 'The general shape of the body, its rather prominent belly, large head, obtuse snout, projecting conspicuously beyond the lower jaw; and its slender jugular ventrals give it a good deal the aspect of a codfish, whence its generic name.' (Richardson 1844–1848: 123).

— ***bispinosus*** Sanger, 1984 (Twospine Blackfish): Latin *bi–* (two) + *spinosus* (spined): 'The species is named after the number of spines in the dorsal fin.' (Sanger 1984: 93).

— ***marmoratus*** Richardson, 1848 (River Blackfish): Latin *marmoratus* (marbled, irregularly veined): 'The colour of the dried skin is pale brown, marked on the dorsal and caudal fins, head, back and sides, with irregular spots of liver-brown.' (Richardson 1844–1848: 123). This variably dark marbling gives the fish its characteristic black appearance from which the common name arose.

Galaxias Cuvier, 1816 — *galaktos* (milky), and hence 'galaxy' (from the appearance of the Milky Way). Unfortunately Cuvier did not give the etymology, but it seems very likely that it refers to the spotted appearance (i.e. resembling a field of stars) of the type species, *Galaxias truttaceus*, which was presumably the only galaxiid then seen by Cuvier. A direct etymology from *galaktos* is very unlikely, as it makes no sense in terms of the appearance of the fish.

— ***brevipinnis*** Günther, 1866 (Climbing Galaxias): *brevis* (short) + *pinna* (fin), alluding to the fin size compared to other species: 'The length of the pectoral is one-half or rather less than one-half of the distance of its stem from the ventral; and the ventral terminates at a great distance from the vent … ' (Günther 1866: 213).

— ***fuscus*** Mack, 1936 (Barred Galaxias): Latin *fuscus* (dusky, tawny), a reference to the colour of the preserved type: 'Colour in spirit greenish-brown with four prominent dark oval blotches on each side … ' (Mack 1936: 101).

— ***maculatus*** (Jenyns, 1842) (Common Galaxias): Latin *maculatus* (spotted), an allusion to the spotted appearance of the body, 'with more or less numerous, large, irregular, blackish-brown spots' (Jenyns 1842, cited in Günther 1866: 212).

— ***olidus*** Günther, 1866 (Mountain Galaxias): Latin *olidus* (stinking, rank), presumably alluding to some comment about the fish by Krefft, who collected the type and sent it to Günther.

— ***rostratus*** Klunzinger, 1872 (Flathead Galaxias): Latin *rostratus* (with a long beak), alluding to the elongate jaw: 'Kiefer gleich lang … ' (Klunzinger 1872: 41)

— ***truttaceus*** Valenciennes, 1846 (Trout Galaxias): genus *Trutta* (trouts) + Latin *–aceus* (similar to), from the resemblance to a small trout: 'La forme arrondie du corps et la disposition des taches font ressembler ce poisson à une petite truite.' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1846: 345).

Galaxiella McDowall, 1978 — diminutive of genus *Galaxias*, from which the type species was separated: 'The name is diminutive of *Galaxias*, gender feminine.' (McDowall 1978: 116).

— **pusilla** (Mack, 1936) (Eastern Dwarf Galaxias): Latin *pusilla* (small): 'Described from a specimen (A.97, Nat. Mus. Victoria) measuring 31 mm. in total length, one of a small series from Cardinia Creek … ' (Mack 1936: 101). Mack was comparing the body length to that of others in the genus *Galaxias*, from which *Galaxiella* was separated.

Geotria Gray, 1851 — presumably from *geo*- (earth) + Latin *atrium* (room), alluding to the discovery of the type species *G. australis* in underground chambers, in which it survives dry periods.

— **australis** Gray, 1851 (Pouch Lamprey): Latin *auster* (the south), alluding to its southern hemisphere distribution.

Gobiomorphus Gill, 1863 — genus *Gobius* (gobies) + *morphos* (form, shape), alluding to the similarity in appearance to the goby genus *Gobius*, as reflected in the specific epithet of the type species, originally described as *Eleotris gobioides*.

— **australis** Krefft, 1864 (Striped Gudgeon): Latin *auster* (the south), alluding to its southern hemisphere distribution.

— **coxii** Krefft, 1864 (Cox's Gudgeon): after James Edward Cox (1834–1912), a trustee of the Australian Museum in Sydney, who published papers on shells and fish. The honour is ironic considering Krefft's clashes with Cox and other trustees that later led to a bitter feud. Krefft's subsequent dismissal from the museum led to a series of court cases, ending in the award of damages to him but ultimately destroying his career (ADB 2009a).

Herklotsichthys (Fowler, 1934) — after British botanist and ornithologist Geoffrey Alton Craig Herklots (1902–1986), reader in biology at the University of Hong Kong from 1928 to 1941, + *ichthys* (fish). The name is a replacement for *Herklotsella* (a later homonym of *Herklotsella* Herre 1933), a subgenus of *Harengula* Valenciennes named 'For Dr. G. A. C. Herklots' (Fowler 1934: 246).

— **castelnaui** (Ogilby, 1897) (Southern Herring): after ichthyologist François Laporte, Compte de Castelnau (see Introduction): 'Castelnau's Herring, which is the Herring *par excellence* of the Sydney fishermen … ' (Ogilby 1897b: 68).

Hyporhamphus Gill, 1859 — *hypos* (beneath) + *rhamphus* (shining, brilliant) referring simply to the separation from the genus *Hemirhamphus*, using the ending of the name of that genus.

— **melanochir** (Valenciennes in Cuvier and Valenciennes 1847) (Southern Garfish): *melano* (black) + *chiro* (handed), alluding to the blackish pectoral fin: 'Cet hémiramphe est characterisé par les teintes noires de sa pectorale … ' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1847: 41).

— **regularis** (Günther, 1866) (River Garfish): Latin *regularis* (regular), presumably on account of the regular appearance of the head in comparison to other species, the protruding jaw being about half the length of the head (Günther 1866: 261).

Hypseleotris Gill, 1863 — *hypsos* (height) + genus *Eleotris*, presumably alluding to the height of the head of the type species, *H. cyprinoides*.[1]

— **compressa** Krefft, 1864 (Empire Gudgeon): Latin *compressus* (a flattening or compression), alluding to the compressed body.

— **klunzingeri** Ogilby, 1898 (Western Carp Gudgeon): after ichthyologist Carl Benjamin Klunzinger (1834–1914): 'There is, however, good reason for believing that Klunzinger's South Australian fish is distinct … ' (Ogilby 1898: 787). Klunzinger originally described the species as *Eleotris cyprinoides* Klunzinger, 1880, an illegitimate name because it had already been used by Valenciennes for another fish. Ogilby circumvented this problem in a common manner, by using the name of the original author.

Liza Jordan & Swain, 1884 — from *liza*, the Spanish name for a large-lipped fish, *Liza* [*Mugil*] *liza* (Valenciennes, 1836): 'Les Espagnols nomment ce poisson *liza* … ' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1836: 83). The genus name was proposed by Jordan and Swain (1884: 261) for Old World mullets in which the adipose eyelids are obsolete.

— **argentea** (Quoy and Gaimard, 1825) (Goldspot Mullet): Latin *argenteum* (silver), a simple descriptive name for the species (Quoy and Gaimard 1824–25: 338).

Lovettia McCulloch, 1915 — 'I associate with this genus the name of Mr. E. F. Lovett, of Hobart, to whom I am indebted for the beautifully preserved specimens described below, as well as many other interesting Tasmanian fishes.' (McCulloch 1915: 259).

— ***sealii*** (Johnston, 1883) (Tasmanian Whitebait): unfortunately Johnson gave no hint of the etymology, except that his construction and original capitalisation of the specific epithet indicates that it honours a person with the surname Seal, presumably the collector of the type. Johnson called the fish 'The Derwent Smelt', as the type was apparently collected from the Derwent River.

Maccullochella Whitley, 1929 — 'in honour of the late Allan R. McCulloch' (Whitley 1929a: 110). Allan Riverstone McCulloch (1885–1925) was one of Australia's pioneering ichthyologists, noted for his devotion to accuracy. At the age of 13 he joined the Australian Museum in Sydney as a volunteer, later joining the staff and working there until his untimely death in Honolulu.

— ***macquariensis*** (Cuvier, 1829) (Trout Cod): from the collection locality of the type: 'un poisson de la rivière Macquarie à la Nouvelle-Hollande' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1829: 58). Cuvier gave the wonderful common name Macquarie River Growler ('Le Growler de la rivière Macquarie') to this fish, from the similarity to the Largemouth Bass *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacepède, 1802) of North America, so named for its tendency to 'growl' when taken from the water.

— ***peelii peelii*** (Mitchell, 1838) (Murray Cod): after the Peel River, the collection locality of the type; a tributary of the Namoi River rising in the mountains south of Tamworth. The river was named by John Oxley in 1818 after British politician and later Prime Minister Robert Peel, then Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Macquaria Cuvier, 1830 — From the location of the original collection of the type species, *Macquaria australasica* Cuvier, 'dans le rivière Macquarie', and thus also as a tribute to Lachlan Macquarie, 'nous nous faisons un plaisir de rendre hommage au général à qui l'on doit cette extension de la connaissance du globe' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1830: 377).

— ***ambigua*** (Richardson, 1845) (Golden Perch): Latin *ambiguus* (having two possibilities, uncertain), referring to Richardson's doubt about the placement of the species: 'I have had much doubt as to whether this fish should be placed in the genus *Dules* or *Datnia*.' (Richardson 1844–1848: 25).

— ***australasica*** Cuvier, 1830 (Macquarie Perch): Latin *australasicus* (Australia), a simple reference to the collection locality.

— ***colonorum*** (Günther, 1863) (Estuary Perch): Latin *colonia* (colony) + *-orum* (belonging to, of), i.e. a *Macquaria* of the colony of New South Wales.

— ***novemaculeata*** (Stendauchner, 1866): Latin *novum* (new) + *maculatus* (spotted), an allusion to the similarity to *Dules maculata* (Valenciennes, 1831).

Melanotaenia Gill, 1862 — *melano* (black) + Latin *taenia* (band), an allusion to the lateral band of the type species: '*Atherina nigrans* of Richardson is scarcely a species of Chirostoma, but apparently the type of another genus, which may be named Melanotaenia, distinguished by a more robust body, black lateral band, &c.' (Gill 1862a: 280).

— ***fluviatilis*** (Castelnau, 1878) (Murray River Rainbowfish): Latin *fluviatilis* (relating to rivers), alluding simply to the river habitat: 'It comes from the Murrumbidgee … the other was found … in Rope's Creek' (Castelnau 1878: 141–142).

Mogurnda Gill, 1863 — Aboriginal *mogurnda*, in reference to the type species, *Mogurnda* [*Eleotris*] *mogurnda* (Richardson, 1844): 'Its specific name is its native appellation at Port Essington.' (Richardson 1844–1848: 4).

— ***adspersa*** (Castelnau, 1878) (Southern Purplespotted Gudgeon): Latin *adspersus* (scattered, sprinkled), alluding to the 'body covered with small rounded dark brown spots' (Castelnau 1878: 142–143).

Mordacia Gray, 1851 — as for the species; Gray's description of the genus is dedicated entirely to describing the array of teeth (Gray 1851: 144).

— ***mordax*** (Richardson, 1846) (Shorthead Lamprey): Latin *mordax* (biting, sharp), alluding to the armature of the mouth: 'The orifice of the mouth is … armed on the edges by acute teeth' (Richardson 1844–1848: 62).

Mugil Linnaeus, 1758 — Latin *mugil* (a sea-fish), probably the striped mullet to which Linnaeus and others applied this name.

— ***cephalus*** Linnaeus, 1758 (Sea Mullet): *kephale* (head), probably in the sense of 'main'. The name was coined by Linnaeus in an account of the journey of Frederik Hasselquist (1722–1752) to the Levant, published in Swedish in 1754 (before the starting date for animal names) and later in English for the Royal Society (Hasselquist 1766: 226).

Myxus Günther, 1861 — presumably from *myxa* (slime, mucus), referring to the sliminess of the body, but Günther did not say as much. An alternative is *myxes* (sucking), from the feeding behaviour,[2] but linguistically that is doubtful as the name *Myxes* would have been available and more appropriate. Furthermore, Günther would not have seen the fish in life, and he was not in the habit of creating names based on behaviour.

— ***elongatus*** Günther, 1861 (Sand Mullet): Latin *elongatus* (elongated); 'The body appears to be more elongate than in the other species … ' (Günther 1861a: 466)

Nannoperca Günther, 1861 — presumably *nanos* (dwarf) + genus *Perca* (perches), an allusion to the small size of the type, originally placed in the genus *Perca*. Günther (1861b) unfortunately did not elucidate the etymology. The double 'n' may be an artifice; according to Castelnau (1872: 33) Günther was inclined to bend the rules of nomenclature to suit his whim.

— ***obscura*** (Klunzinger, 1872) (Yarra Pygmy Perch): Latin *obscurus* (dark, obscure), alluding to the dark brown body and dark fins: 'Farbe in Weingeist: dunkelbraun. Flossen grau-grün. Die Bauchflossen aussen, die Afterflosse vorn, oft auch die Spitzen der Rücken- und Afterflosse dunkler.' (Klunzinger 1872: 21).

— ***variegata*** Kuiter & Allen 1986 (Ewen's Pygmy Perch): Latin *variegatus* (variegated), alluding to the dark blotches on the flanks of the fish.

Nematalosa Regan, 1917 — *nematos* (thread) + genus *Alosa*, presumably referring to the slimness of the fish and the major genus of the family Clupeidae, although Regan did not say as much.

— ***erebi*** (Günther, 1868) (Bony Bream): after HMS *Erebus*, along with HMS *Terror* a ship of the famous 'Antarctic Voyage' on which Sir John Richardson (the collector of the type) sailed as naturalist in 1839–43. Castelnau (1872: 185) noted that the fish had no common name in Victoria, but 'According to Mr. Masters, it is called *Bony Bream* by the Burnett [district in Queensland] settlers.'

Neochanna Günther, 1867 — *neos* (young, new) + genus *Channa*: 'I received a highly interesting example belonging to this family of Galaxidae, differing generically, however, from *Galaxias* in *being devoid of ventral fins.* It is the type of a new genus … ' (Günther 1867a: 306).

— ***cleaveri*** (Scott, 1934) (Tasmanian Mudfish): after F. Cleaver, who collected the type from West Ulverstone in January 1933 (data on type label in Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston, no. (1933:5:0009; the specimen itself is missing). Nothing more seems to be known about the collector. Despite Günther's reason for delineating the new genus, this species does in fact have ventral fins.

Nesogobius Whitley, 1929 — *nesos* (middle, among) + genus *Gobius*, a simple allusion to the separation of the genus from *Gobius* (Whitley 1929b: 62).

— ***pulchellus*** (Castelnau, 1872) (Sailfin Goby): Latin *pulchellus* (very pretty), from Castelnau's opinion of the species.

Philypnodon Bleeker, 1874 — presumably from the genus *Philypnus* + *odon* (tooth). Unfortunately the original description (Bleeker 1874) could not be located when preparing this paper. *Philypnus* is derived from *philos* (loving) + *hypnos* (sleep), from the tendency (like most members of family Eleotridae) to lie quietly on the bottom, thus appearing to be asleep.

— ***grandiceps*** (Krefft, 1864) (Flathead Gudgeon): Latin *grandis* (large, great) + *ceps* (headed), referring to the relatively large head. The name Big-headed Gudgeon has sometimes been applied to the species, e.g. Scott *et al.* (1980).

— ***macrostomus*** Hoese & Reader 2006 (Dwarf Flathead Gudgeon): 'from the Latin *macro* = large and *stomus* = mouth, alluding to the large mouth that develops in males.' (Hoese and Reader 2006: 18). Although a legitimate name, the etymology given by the authors is incorrect: *macro* is (abberantly) from Greek *makros* (the Latin is *magnus*) and *stomus* is from Greek *stoma* (the Latin is *os*).

Potamalosa Ogilby, 1897 — *potamos* (river) + genus *Alosa*, alluding to the habitat of the species and the major genus of the family Clupeidae. Ogilby called *Potamalosa* the 'Fresh-water Herrings' as opposed to the 'Marine Herrings', which he placed in genus *Hyperlophus* (Ogilby 1897a: 505).

— ***richmondia*** (Macleay, 1879) (Freshwater Herring): from the locality of the type collection in northern New South Wales: 'I give this name to a species abundant in the Richmond River' (Macleay 1879: 380).

Prototroctes Günther, 1864 — presumably from *protos* (first, foremost) + *troktes* (greedy knave, cheat) or *trogon* (to eat). Unfortunately Günther gave no indication of the etymology.

— ***maraena*** Günther, 1864 (Australian Grayling): German Maräne, the common name of a number of fishes (genus *Coregonus*) of similar appearance, particularly *Coregonus maraena* (Bloch, 1779), Maräne Whitefish: 'This genus has the general habit of *Coregonus*; however, the scales on the front part of the body are rather irregularly arranged in series descending obliquely forward.' (Günther 1864: 382). The original epithet *maraena* is from Latin *mare* (sea) + *ena* (swimming out), i.e. swimming out to sea.

Pseudaphritis Castelnau, 1872 — *pseude* (false) + genus *Aphritis*, from the similarity of the type species *P. bassii* to that genus: 'Almost all of this would agree with *Aphritis*, but the scales are rather large; the first dorsal has seven rays, and just in front of the anal is a short fin composed of two spines.' (Castelnau 1872: 92). It is ironic that *Pseudaphritis* replaced *Aphritis* Valenciennes, 1832 when that name was found to be a later homonym of the insect genus *Aphritis* Latreille, 1804.

— ***urvillii*** (Valenciennes, 1832) (Congolli): after Jules Sébastien César Dumont d'Urville (1790–1842), French explorer in the Pacific and Antarctic, who commanded *l'Astrolabe* during the 1826–1829 expedition on which the type was presumably collected. 'Nous n'avons trouvé aucun autre renseignement dans les manuscrits des compagnons de M. d'Urville … ' (Cuvier and Valenciennes 1832: 484).

Pseudogobius Popta, 1922 — *pseude* (false) + genus *Gobius* (gobies), alluding to Popta's view that the type species did not belong in that genus, so that a new genus had to be erected to accommodate it.

— ***olorum*** (Sauvage, 1880) (Bluespot Goby): Latin *olor* (swan), alluding to the Swan River in Western Australia, which was the collection locality of the type.

Redigobius Herre 1927 — *redeo* (slope) + genus *Gobius*, presumably alluding to the sloping head.

— ***macrostoma*** (Günther, 1861) (Largemouth Goby): *makros* (large) + *stoma* (opening), alluding to the large mouth: 'Cleft of the mouth slightly oblique, wide, reaching backwards to the vertical … ' (Günther 1861a: 44).

Retropinna Gill, 1862 — Latin *retro* (back, behind) + Greek *pinna* (fin), from the position of the dorsal fin: 'Another group, represented by a single species, is distinguished by the posterior insertion of the dorsal and its position above the anus … ' (Gill 1862b: 14).

— ***semoni*** (Weber, 1895) (Australian Smelt): after Richard Wolfgang Semon (1859–1918), renowned German zoologist and evolutionary biologist, who collected the type from the Burnett River in Queensland (Weber 1895: 274).

Rhombosolea Günther, 1862 — *rhombos* (the turbot) + genus *Solea* (soles), alluding to the turbot-like shape and the position of the genus in the sole family Soleidae.

— ***tapirina*** Günther, 1862 (Greenback Flounder): from the shape of the snout, which resembles that of a tapir.

Tandanus Mitchell, 1838 — Aboriginal *tandan*, from the specific epithet of the type species, *Plotosus tandanus* Mitchell: '*Plotosus*, Lacépede, or Eel-fish; Subgenus, *Tandanus mihi*; Species, *Plotosus tandanus mihi*; or Tandan Eel-fish … This is an Asiatic form of fish; whereas the *Gristes* is an American form. *Tandan* is the aboriginal name.' (Mitchell 1838: 95).

— ***tandanus*** (Mitchell, 1838) (Freshwater Catfish): as for the genus.

Tasmanogobius Scott, 1935 — Tasmania + genus *Gobius*, a simple allusion to the collection locality of the type of the genus (Scott 1935: 55).

— ***gloveri*** Hoese, 1991 (Glover's Tasmangoby) — 'For J. Glover, Curator of Fishes at the South Australian Museum.' (Hoese 1991: 364).

— ***lasti*** Hoese, 1991 (Scary's Tasmangoby) — 'For Peter Last, CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Hobart, who supplied much of the Tasmanian material of this species.' (Hoese 1991: 370).

— ***lordi*** Scott, 1935 (Lord's Tasmangoby) — after zoologist Clive Errol Lord (1889–1933), Director of the Australian Museum and Art Gallery from 1921 to 1933. Lord was an indefatigable campaigner for the protection of fisheries and endangered species. He was president of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (1931–1932), a foundation member of the Tasmanian Sea Fisheries Board, and secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania from 1918 to 1933 (Thwaites 1986: 144–145).

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Notes

[1] Two Victorian species, Midgley's Carp Gudgeon and Lake's Carp Gudgeon, are yet to be formally named.

[2] Sucking at detritus or algae at the water surface.

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Note: Where the actual date of publication differs from the date stated in the work, the latter is given in quotation marks.

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